

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9996

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO

ALL EC CAPITALS 1340

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TAGS: ELAB, EEC

SUBJECT: ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING FOCUSED ON TRIPARTITE
CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT

REF: EC BRUSSELS 9923

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE NOVEMBER 18 EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE
ON EMPLOYMENT, THE RESULTS OF THE NOVEMBER 12 VETTER/SEGUY
MEETING RELATING TO POSSIBLE FRENCH CGT MEMBERSHIP IN THE ETUC,
AND CHOOSING A NEW GENERAL SECRETARY WERE THE PRINCIPAL
SUBJECTS DISCUSSED AT THE NOVEMBER 14 MEETING OF THE ETUC EX-
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ECUTIVE COMMITTEE. THE VETTER/SEGUY MEETING HAS BEEN TERMED

"SATISFACTORY" BY ETUC OFFICIALS AND WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A SECOND MEETING EARLY NEXT YEAR AT WHICH TIME SEGUY WILL RESPOND TO A SERIES OF QUESTIONS POSED BY THE ETUC AIMED AT SEEKING "CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN ISSUES." MATHIAS HINTERSCHIED HEAD OF THE LUXEMBOURG CGT, HAS EMERGED AS THE "OFFICIAL" ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CANDIDATE TO REPLACE THEO RASSCHAERT AT THE ETUC LONDON CONGRESS NEXT APRIL. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS FOLLOWED BY A "PUBLIC" MEETING WHICH WAS CALLED TO DRAMATIZE THE EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT, (SEE EC 9039). AT THE MEETING, VETTER OUTLINED ETUC DEMANDS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND LABOR WHICH INCLUDE A CALL FOR A COORDINATED PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC EXPANSION TO PROTECT AND CREATE JOBS AND FOR COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MNC'S. END SUMMARY.

2. EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE: THE BULK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION OF ETUC DEMANDS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER 18 EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON EMPLOYMENT WHICH IS BEING HELD IN RESPONSE TO ETUC PRESSURES FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE SOCIAL PARTNERS AND THE EC FINANCE AND LABOR MINISTERS. AT THE CONFERENCE THE ETUC WILL CALL ON MEMBER STATE GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP A COMMUNITY-WIDE COORDINATED POLICY FOR REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT THROUGH ECONOMIC EXPANSION AND SELECTIVE REFLATION. THE ETUC WILL ALSO POINT TO THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REPERCUSSIONS OF MNC ACTIVITIES AND DEMAND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY REGULATIONS SPELLING OUT THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MNC'S. THE ETUC WILL ALSO DEMAND THAT A SECOND EC TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE BE HELD IN THE SPRING OF 1976 TO ASSURE THAT THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE AND LABOR WILL CONTINUE TO FOCUS ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS AND "NOT BE ABLE TO GET OFF THE HOOK" BY MERELY ATTENDING A ONE-DAY MEETING. ABOUT 2,000 PEOPLE TURNED OUT FOR A PUBLIC MEETING WHICH WAS HELD IN BRUSSELS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO DRAMATIZE THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE. THE MEETING WAS ORDERLY AND DID SERVE TO EMPHASIZE THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE TRADE UNIONS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE.

3. VETTER/SEGUY MEETING: ACCORDING TO ETUC SECRETARIAT OFFICIALS, THE NOVEMBER 12 MEETING BETWEEN ETUC PRESIDENT VETTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND FRENCH CGT GENERAL SECRETARY SEGUY WAS "CORDIAL AND SATISFACTORY". THEY ALSO SAID THAT THE ETUC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AFTER HEARING VETTER'S REPORT ON THE MEETING, DECIDED THAT A SECOND MEETING SHOULD BE HELD EARLY NEXT YEAR AT WHICH SEGUY WILL BE EXPECTED TO RESPOND TO SEVERAL QUESTIONS POSED BY THE ETUC WHICH SEEK "CLARIFICATION OF CERTAIN ISSUES." THE CGT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNIST WFTU AND ITS POSITION ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ARE CHIEF AMONG THOSE ISSUES.

4. NEW SECRETARY GENERAL: LUXEMBOURG CGT LEADER HINTERSCHIED HAS EMERGED AS THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE'S OFFICIAL CANDIDATE TO REPLACE THEO RASSCHAERT WHOSE RESIGNATION WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 12. AT THAT TIME ETUC ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY PEER CARLSEN WILL BECOME GENERAL SECRETARY ON AN INTERIM BASIS UNTIL ELECTIONS ARE HELD AT THE ETUC CONGRESS IN LONDON NEXT APRIL. CARLSEN WAS HOPING TO WIN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE APPROVAL FOR HIS OWN CANDIDACY BUT HE WAS UNABLE TO GAIN THE NECESSARY SUPPORT. PRIOR TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING, CARLSEN ANNOUNCED IN A LETTER TO VETTER THAT HE AGREED TO SERVE AS ACTING GENERAL SECRETARY UNTIL THE CONGRESS BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT SEEK ELECTION TO THE TOP POSITION OR REELECTION AS ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY, PREFERRING FOR PERSONAL REASONS TO RETURN TO THE DANISH LO. HINTERSCHIED HAD BEEN RUMORED AS A POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT FOR RASSCHAERT, BUT IT WAS GENERALLY FELT THAT HE WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO GIVE UP HIS RATHER FORMIDABLE POLITICAL POSITION IN LUXEMBOURG. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES HE HAS NOW AGREED TO TAKE THE ETUC JOB AND IS EXPECTED TO BE UNOPPOSED AT THE CONGRESS.MORRIS

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